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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Sadaaki HIRAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1775

Application No.: 10/541,065

Examiner: G. BALDWIN

Filed: June 29, 2005

Docket No.: 124507

For: COATING MATERIAL, CERAMIC HONEYCOMB STRUCTURE AND METHOD
FOR PRODUCTION THEREOF

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 20, 2007 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 17-28, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Lynn E. Schwenning
Registration No. 37,233

JAO:LÉS/ccs

Date: July 18, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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